

CHRISTOLOGY – The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

Part 4 The Incarnation

Man has always craved a God that is tangible and visible. Idolatry, bowing to images made of wood and stone testifies to this.

God's answer to this longing...the Incarnation of His Son

Incarnation (Lat. *incarnatio*), a term meaning 'to enter into or become flesh.' It refers to the Christian doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became man in Jesus.ⁱ

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:6-7 NLT

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being...

Colossians 2:9

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

- The incarnation of the Son of God, then, was not a diminishing of deity, but an acquiring of manhood.ⁱⁱ

The Process...The Virgin Birth

Prophesied

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Fulfilled

Matthew 1:18-25

- Before they came together
- She was found with child of the Holy Spirit
- That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit
- Joseph...did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son
 - Interesting sub-points
 - Call His name Jesus (Yahweh-salvation), for He will save His people from their sins
 - Immanuel, which is translated, “God with us.”

Luke 1:30-35

- You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son
- He... will be called the Son of the Highest
- He will reign over the house of Jacob forever
- Of His kingdom there will be no end
- How...since I do not know a man (since I am a virgin NIV)
- The Holy Spirit will come upon you

- The power of the Highest will overshadow you
- That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God

The Result

His Humanity

- As a Babe in the manger / Presented at the Temple (Luke 2:16-38)
- As a Young 12 Year Old Boy Amazing All Who Heard Him (Luke 2:41-52)
- He was Hungry (Matthew 4:2; Mark 11:12)
- He Slept (Matthew 8:24)
- He was Tempted by the Devil (Matthew 4:1; Hebrew 4:15)
- He was Tired (John 4:6)
- He was Thirsty (John 19:28)
- He Experienced Physical Agony (Luke 22:44)
- He Cried and Shed Tears (John 11:35; Hebrews 5:7)

His Sinless Life

1 Peter 2:22

“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Hebrews 7:26

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

1 John 3:5

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Purpose

To Die for Sinners

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Luke 19:10

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

The Result...Eternal Life**John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 6:40

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

To Be Our Merciful High Priest**Hebrews 2:17-18**

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

To Set an Example for Those Who Will Follow Him**Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

1 Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

That He Might Provide an Everlasting Revelation of Himself

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

John 20:29

Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- And his manhood is permanent. Though now exalted, he ‘continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever’ (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*)ⁱⁱⁱ

The Importance

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

2 John 7

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

ⁱAchtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row, P., & Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). *Harper's Bible dictionary*. Includes index. (1st ed.) (420). San Francisco: Harper & Row.

ⁱⁱWood, D. R. W. (1996, c1982, c1962). *New Bible Dictionary* (504). InterVarsity Press.

ⁱⁱⁱWood, D. R. W. (1996, c1982, c1962). *New Bible Dictionary* (504). InterVarsity Press.